



Supreme Court of Illinois

November 4, 2015

JUSTICE KILBRIDE ANNOUNCES UPCOMING VACANCY IN FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride has announced an application process for appointment to a resident Circuit Court vacancy in Rock Island County in the 14th Judicial Circuit.

The vacancy will be created by Circuit Judge F. Michael Meersman's retirement, which takes effect at the close of business on November 30, 2015.

Judge Meersman was elected a circuit judge in November 2006. Prior to joining the bench, he was the Rock Island County Public Defender and an assistant Rock Island state's attorney.

Under the Illinois Constitution, judicial vacancies are filled by Supreme Court appointment. Justice Kilbride will make a recommendation to the Court after applicants undergo an evaluation and screening process.

Notice of both vacancies has been posted at courthouses within the 14th Judicial Circuit, which includes Henry, Mercer, Rock Island, and Whiteside counties. The application form and instructions may be obtained by visiting the Supreme Court's website at www.illinoiscourts.gov and following the instructions on the "Latest News" scroller announcing the 14th Judicial Circuit vacancy.

Applicants must submit one original and the requisite number of copies of the application and other documents as instructed in the application packet. To be considered, all documents must be received in Justice Kilbride's office no later than **11:30 a.m. on Monday, November 30, 2015.**

An applicant must be admitted to practice law in Illinois, live in the 14th Judicial Circuit and be in good standing with the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission or any other respective disciplinary bodies.

Other qualities an applicant must possess include: a demonstrated reputation for integrity and good character; a demonstrated commitment to equal justice under law; outstanding legal ability and competence; and the appropriate demeanor, character, and temperament.

The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until December 5, 2016 or otherwise ordered by the Supreme Court.